

- 1) The following comments are offered in the case of FCC Docket number RM-10787, a Petition filed by the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NC-VEC).
- 2) I hold an Amateur Extra class license, and have been licensed overall for five years and 10 months. I am a Volunteer Examiner with the W4VEC group, and am an active member of my local County Emergency Services group.
- 3) Substantive claims made by NC-VEC shall be addressed in order, and appropriately cited.

- 4) *“Morse Code testing is a (sic) burden to the applicant”*

Applicants claim that the Element One examination is stressful to the applicant, a charge we do not deny. However, a test merely being stressful is hardly a compelling reason to eliminate the test. Students in schools all over the United States find tests stressful, and military recruit training is very stressful. We spent six and one half years in the United States Navy, and can readily attest to the stressful nature of Recruit Training. Over the course of the month of July 2003, we advanced from the Technician license all the way to Amateur Extra. The study for Elements One, Three, and Four was conducted concurrently with a full time course load at the University of Tennessee. During the time in question, I maintained a “B” average in Intermediate Spanish and an upper division 400 level Political Science course. While the Element One examination does pose a burden

to the license applicant, it is no more substantive a burden than Elements Two, Three, or Four. Therefore, Petitioner's claim is groundless and non-substantive.

5) *"An unnecessary burden on the VE System"*

The claim is made that the Element One examination poses an unnecessary burden on the Volunteer Examiners in requiring extensive preparation and special equipment to administer properly. I am familiar with several systems of administering this element. All use apparatus commonly available and used regularly by the administering Volunteer Examiners; in one case, a home computer and external speakers (with readily available program), and others use an electronic keyer modified as to hold in memory sufficient Morse code to satisfy Element One.

6) *"An unnecessary burden upon the Amateur Community"*

The claim is here made that the Element One test discourages prospective applicants from pursuing interest in the Amateur Service. This claim is not substantiated with a single bit of evidence.

7) Petitioners make other claims that collectively should be dismissed by the Commission as they are presented without substantiating evidence cited.